29th January 1931]

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have no information ; I shall inquire into the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know the object for which these licences are issued ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"For protection of crops."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I inquire what special facilities are given to the ryots ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"As I said, I shall inquire into the matter."

Criminal Justice

Issue of orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code.

* 181 *Q.*—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state in how many places orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, have been issued prohibiting—

(*a*) picketing of toddy shops,

(*b*) picketing of foreign cloth,

(*c*) processions generally, and

(*d*) public meetings generally ?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for it.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether there is likely to be any disturbance of peace when only one or two people go about picketing toddy shops and foreign cloth shops and when they do not form technically an unlawful assembly and considering the fact that even under the Ordinance it is not an offence ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The Government issue these orders when they are convinced that they are necessary in the interest of the preservation of law and order."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask whether the Government consider that there is likely to be a breach of peace when two or three people are peacefully picketing and merely advising people not to purchase foreign cloth ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sometimes these things lead to a breach of peace."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know the number of persons who constitute an unlawful assembly ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is a question of law."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I enquire whether less than five persons constitute an unlawful assembly, and whether one or two persons going about picketing is a menace to the Government ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"When one or two persons picket the shops, lot of people gather there and there is always a fear of the breach of peace."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I ask whether the hon. Member is aware that, only when the police appear on the scene, a crowd gathers and that, in the absence of the police, there is no crowd at all?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I do not think it is so, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Will Government make inquiries into the matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Not necessary, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether there is likely to be a disturbance of peace when only two or three picketers are merely asking the people not to purchase foreign cloth?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Other people who do not like the picketing, gather there, and there is likely to be a breach of the peace."

Mr ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know whether the Government have received any complaint from the people to that effect?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"We get our reports from the District Magistrates who think that such things will lead to breaches of the peace."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I enquire whether the District Magistrate, to whom the hon. the Home Member refers, received any complaint from any part of the public?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"He receives information from officers under him, such as the Superintendent of Police."

Police

Detection of murders in the City of Madras.

*182 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the number of murders committed in the City of Madras during the last two years;

(b) how many of them have been detected and how many ended in conviction; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officers who have been responsible for the non-detection of the other murders?

A.—(a) Ten cases of murder were reported in 1929 and eight in 1930.

(b) Of the 1929 cases, only one remains undetected. Five ended in conviction, in three cases the murderers committed suicide and in another the accused was acquitted. Of the 1930 cases, five ended in conviction, one in acquittal and in another the murderer committed suicide. One case is still under investigation.

(c) No action was called for.